
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 1975 - JUNE 30, 1976

DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH
WALTER F. LEWIS
DIRECTOR

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
FREDERIC WINTHROP JR.
COMMISSIONER

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH

July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

To the Commissioner of Agriculture:

In accordance with Section 38, Section 129, General Laws, Acts of 1932, I herewith submit the report of the Division of Animal Health for the fiscal year, July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976 inclusive.

We are continuing the program of T.B. testing cattle once in three (3) years. The shortage of veterinarians on our staff and the demand on our staff and the demand on existing people to handle other disease problems reduced the amount of testing by this group by 41%. The number tested by 03 (per diem) veterinarians remained the same as in 1975. The number tested by federal veterinarians was of no significance. The total number of tests were 29,646, down from 44,974 in 1975. This is a drop of 44% over 1975.

The reduction in testing done in 1976 should be considered a serious situation. It means that we are falling behind in our program to meet our program objective of testing all bovines in the Commonwealth once every three years.

Fortunately only one T.B. reactor was discovered in 1976. The various safeguards against importation of T.B. infection and inspection of carcasses at slaughter for T.B. lesions are being maintained.

Special efforts should be made in 1977 to bring our testing programs up to the standard of once in three years.

No Encephalomyelitis was reported in horses this year. It would appear that the volume of voluntary vaccination by horse owners has been well maintained. No official study of this has been made. Surveillance of the mosquito population by the State Board of Health indicated the presence of Encephalomyelitis virus during the summer season. There were no cases of Encephalomyelitis in humans reported in 1976.

The discovery of Hog Cholera infection in the Commonwealth in February 1976 was the most serious animal disease disaster of the year. This followed soon after the discovery in New Jersey and Rhode Island. The most important aspect of this uncovering is the conviction, generally held by persons close to the effort to control the disease, that the use of Hog Cholera Vaccine was the cause of the infection. It is the opinion of the writer that Hog Cholera Vaccine was stockpiled at the time the manufacture and interstate transportation of the vaccine was made illegal by the Federal Government. It also appears very likely that illegal imports were made from Mexico.

The main thrust of the Hog Cholera eradication effort was carried on by a Federal Task Force that was first headquartered in Rhode Island and later at Waltham, Massachusetts. The end of the year found us with no recent discovery of virus. However, there were many herds in the Commonwealth carrying high titers for Cholera that called for continued surveillance and eradication. There was no great assurance that more virus would not be found or that no more vaccine would be used.

The eradication of Brucellosis in hogs was pursued with vigor during this year. Much testing was performed in conjunction with blood drawing for Hog Cholera studies.

Massachusetts continues to maintain its Certified Brucellosis Free status according to Federal Regulations. Infection broke out in one medium sized herd during the year. It appeared at years end that a test and slaughter program was to be an effective eradication effort.

The increase in incidence of Brucellosis in bovines in many parts of the country give us reason to improve our present surveillances and consider a new one, namely retesting of all imports. Hopefully this program will be implemented in 1977.

Activity on the enforcement of the Law Prohibiting the Administration of Drugs to Horses Participating in Contests at Agricultural Fairs was not initiated this year because of lack of funds for testing. If sufficient interest can be generated, a program will be developed within the activity to finance testing.

The program to control and eradicate Equine Infectious Anemia made important progress during 1976. The number of horses tested increased from 20,288 in 1975 with 147 reactors found to 21,976 in 1976 with only 69 reactors discovered. The halving of the percentage of reactors appears to be following the trend of the first two years. It also follows the trend of other states where substantial testing is being carried on.

The programs to license stables and horseback riding instructors continues to grow. The standards of these services offered to the public is being improved.

There continues to be iniquities in the licensing fees particularly in respect to the stable licensing fee of \$50.00. This is definitely a burden for the small operator. An extension of the coverage to include boarding stables and some gradation of the fee according to size would appear to be an important objective.

The supply of large animal veterinarians continues to be short. The number available for employment by the Division of Animal Health is even smaller. Our salary scale should be raised to make employment of a full roster possible.

During the fiscal year the usual number of miscellaneous diseases were reported.

The Division still enjoys excellent co-operation and help from the Animal and Plant Health Service, Division of the USDA located in Waltham. We continue to work closely with the College of Food and Natural Resources of the University of Massachusetts.

Following is information and statistics in detail covering the various activities of the Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Walter F. Lewis".

Walter F. Lewis
Director

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

There were six hundred and ninety-three (693) tuberculin herd tests, twenty-nine thousand six hundred and forty-six (29,646) animal tests applied to which ninety-three (93) head were declared Deviates. Upon comparative cervical retest, several remained Suspects and one was reported as a Reactor. The previous fiscal year there were one thousand and sixteen (1,016) tuberculin herd tests and forty-four thousand nine hundred and seventy-four (44,974) animal tests applied to which ninety-seven (97) head were declared Reactors.

One hundred and ninety-three (193) herds containing two thousand seven hundred and thirty-three (2,733) head of cattle included in the census report of June 30, 1975 were disposed of by the owners prior to the census period ending June 30, 1976.

Eighty-nine (89) herds containing one thousand two hundred and ninety-eight (1,298) head of cattle to which testing has not previously been conducted are included in the census report of the period ending June 30, 1976.

Tuberculin tests are conducted by State and Federal accredited veterinarians under a State and Federal Cooperative Plan for the establishment of tuberculosis-free herds and the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

Following is a summary of the tuberculin tests as made by veterinarians for the twelve month period of this report:

	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>REACTORS</u>
Veterinarians paid by the State on a salary basis	367	16,228	
Veterinarians paid by the State as Program Agents	324	13,239	1
Veterinarians paid by the Federal Government on a salary basis	2	179	
	693	29,646	1

No indemnity was paid for Reactors during the fiscal year.

COUNTY CENSUSAS OFJUNE 30, 1976

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>100 or More Head</u> <u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
Barnstable	6	103	-	-
Berkshire	340	14,149	38	6,084
Bristol	263	10,576	22	4,089
Dukes	18	198		
Essex	136	3,882	7	1,428
Franklin	409	13,964	23	4,470
Hampden	209	5,692	10	1,251
Hampshire	363	11,827	27	4,371
Middlesex	195	5,359	13	2,056
Norfolk	76	1,968	2	302
Nantucket	1	36		
Plymouth	162	6,151	13	3,844
Worcester	652	22,596	40	6,501
TOTALS	2,830	96,501	195	34,396

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF NEAT CATTLE, HORSES, SWINE, SHEEP AND GOATS

In accordance with Section 10, Chapter 129 of the General Laws the annual inspection of neat cattle, horses, swine, sheep and goats and of the premises where kept was completed.

Reports received from the cities and towns showed that inspection indicated the following information:

COUNTY	HERDS	NEAT CATTLE	HORSES AND PONIES	SWINE HERDS	SWINE HEADS	SHEEP	GOATS
Barnstable	26	125	921	29	73	127	94
Berkshire	454	15,270	1,789	103	494	561	154
Bristol	465	10,721	2,166	115	6,817	438	298
Dukes	23	334	229	25	97	562	77
Essex	195	4,594	3,292	65	4,130	424	220
Franklin	608	15,648	1,515	122	802	340	193
Hampden	324	6,179	1,404	47	788	560	72
Hampshire	402	10,501	1,602	104	2,016	1,104	206
Middlesex	282	5,212	4,501	327	7,109	773	282
Nantucket	1	0	82	1	1	28	2
Norfolk	111	2,008	1,824	56	2,168	453	172
Plymouth	291	7,428	2,313	104	3,688	643	275
Suffolk	1	2	74	1	2	20	20
Worcester	944	22,365	4,257	222	12,262	1,196	362
TOTALS	4,127	100,387	25,969	1,321	40,447	7,229	2,427

Of the total number of cattle inspected, seventy thousand five hundred sixty-eight (70,568) were grade dairy cows, heifers and calves; fifteen thousand seventy-six (15,076) were purebred dairy cows, heifers and calves. There were also three hundred nine (309) purebred bulls listed.

Also there were many miscellaneous animals such as buffalo, chickens, deer, donkeys, mules, oxen, raccoons, mink, etc.

PRIVATE CALFHOOD VACCINATIONS

(OWNER'S EXPENSE)

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
July <u>1975</u>	14	88
August	49	336
September	20	97
October	6	33
November	43	229
December	21	150
January <u>1976</u>	40	329
February	39	240
March	26	144
April	33	185
May	25	112
June	11	41
TOTAL	327	1,984

BRUCELLOSIS

The Brucellosis program has been carried on in accordance with Chapter 129, General Laws as amended by Chapter 527, Acts of 1956.

During the fiscal year 1976 reimbursement to owners was made for eight cattle reactors (all grades) amounting to two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

Listed on the following page is a tabulation of the results of laboratory examination of the blood samples from cattle under this program; also from goats and swine.

BRUCELLOSIS

9.

7/1/75 - 6/30/76

	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Reactors</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>*Others</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Cattle	8,638	19	113	149	8,919
Goats	524	0	2	4	530
Swine	9,371	850	0	10	10,231
Horses	3	1	1	0	5
Gnu	2	0	0	0	2
Kudu	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	18,540	870	116	163	19,689

*Containers broken, insufficient
amount of serum, hemolyzed.

Validated Herds: SWINE

Validated Brucellosis-Free Herds	15
Swine in Validated Brucellosis-Free Herds	363

MILK RING TESTS

<u>Negative</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2,028	12	2,040

GOATS

7/1/75 - 6/30/76

This Division arranges for the tuberculin testing and blood testing of goats provided the owner signs an agreement to the effect that any goats declared as reactors to either test would be immediately disposed of for slaughter with no compensation allowed by the Commonwealth.

Under the new T. B. testing program, goats will be tested on the same basis as cattle, every three years.

RABIES

Under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations Chapter 111, General Laws as amended by Chapter 265, Acts of 1938, Sections 6 and 7 "Dog Bite" is declared a disease dangerous to public health.

Chapter 129, Section 21 of the General Laws, was amended under Chapter 29, Acts of 1963 to read: "All dogs known to have bitten persons shall be quarantined for a period of ten (10) days for observation, at the end of which period, if no symptoms of rabies have developed, said animals may be released from quarantine on order of the Director."

Investigation of reported injuries inflicted to persons by biting dogs and the quarantining of such dogs is one of the duties of the Inspector of Animals.

One thousand ninety-seven (1,097) persons were bitten by stray animals. The brains of six hundred and fifty (650) animals were sent to Wassermann Laboratory for examination. Of that number four hundred and thirty (430) were reported to have bitten five hundred and three (503) persons.

The following tabulation is a record of bites inflicted by dogs and other animals.

RABIESBite Cases

	Released Quarantined Animals	Destroyed No Examina- tion	Heads to Laboratory NEGATIVE	Heads to Laboratory POSITIVE	Heads to Laboratory UNSATIS- FACTORY
<u>1975</u>					
July	1,504	3	79	1	16
August	1,056	2	63	2	21
September	1,097	1	43	1	4
October	809	1	41	1	2
November	695	1	28	0	4
December	695	1	35	0	0
<u>1976</u>					
January	496	1	33	0	0
February	485	1	35	0	3
March	749	1	41	0	2
April	827	11	43	1	2
May	963	4	51	3	6
June	1,504	4	76	1	12
Totals	10,880	31	568	10	72

RABIES
Bite Cases --- Fiscal Year 1976

	Released Quarantined Animals	Destroyed No Examina- tion	Heads to Laboratory NEGATIVE	Heads to Laboratory POSITIVE	Heads to Laboratory UNSATIS- FACTORY
Baboon	0	0	1	0	0
Bats	0	0	81	10	34
Cats	353	4	105	0	2
Chipmunks	0	0	15	0	1
Dogs	10,310	23	161	0	9
Donkey	1	0	0	0	0
Flying Squirrel	0	0	2	0	0
Foxes	1	0	4	0	0
Gerbils	51	0	19	0	3
Guinea Pigs	12	2	3	0	0
Hamsters	56	0	24	0	2
Horses	10	0	1	0	0
Kittens	0	0	3	0	0
Lion Cub	1	0	0	0	0
Llama	1	0	0	0	0
Mice	6	0	8	0	3
Mink	2	0	0	0	0
Mole	0	0	1	0	1
Monkeys	13	0	1	0	0
Muskrats	0	0	3	0	1
Opossums	0	0	2	0	0
Pet Mouse	0	0	0	0	1
Pony	1	0	0	0	0
Porcupine	2	0	0	0	0
Possums	1	0	4	0	0
Puma	1	0	0	0	0
Rabbits	28	0	19	0	0
Raccoons	3	0	28	0	1
Rats	7	1	12	0	2
Seal	0	0	1	0	0
Shrews	0	1	2	0	1
Skunks	9	0	14	0	0
Snakes	3	0	0	0	0
Squirrels	2	0	40	0	7

RABIES
Bite Cases --- Fiscal Year 1976

	Released Quarantined Animals	Destroyed No Examina- tion	Heads to Laboratory NEGATIVE	Heads to Laboratory POSITIVE	Heads to Laboratory UNSATIS- FACTORY
Turtle	1	0	0	0	0
Voles	0	0	12	0	2
Weasel	0	0	0	0	1
Wolves	5	0	0	0	0
Woodchucks	0	0	2	0	1
Total	10,880	31	568	10	72

CATTLE IMPORTS

7/1/75 - 6/30/76

Alabama	4	Minnesota	34
California	1	Nebraska	1
Canada	150	New Hampshire	477
Colorado	42	New Jersey	47
Connecticut	1,633	New York	2,678
Delaware	2	Pennsylvania	47
Illinois	3	Rhode Island	383
Indiana	1	South Carolina	1
Kentucky	1	Vermont	610
Maine	1,119	Virginia	22
Maryland	14	Wisconsin	122

TOTAL - 7,392

Six hundred and nine (609) permits, covering seven thousand three hundred and ninety-two (7,392) head of cattle, were issued.

EXPORTS --- JULY 1, 1975 THRU JUNE 30, 1976

Interstate certificates of health were issued on four thousand four hundred fourteen (4,414) head of cattle; twenty-three (23) goats; fourteen (14) sheep; and two hundred fifty-five (255) swine, exported to other states and countries, as follows:

CATTLE

<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
Alabama	5	Nebraska	1
Arkansas	13	New Hampshire	663
California	2	New Jersey	1
Canada	1	New Mexico	131
Colorado	7	New York	801
Connecticut	709	North Dakota	4
Illinois	7	Ohio	68
Indiana	1	Oregon	3
Iowa	54	Pennsylvania	151
Kentucky	7	Rhode Island	399
Louisiana	6	South Dakota	2
Maine	106	Tennessee	50
Maryland	8	Vermont	972
Michigan	4	Virginia	129
Mississippi	19	West Virginia	3
Missouri	83	Wisconsin	<u>4</u>
		Total	4,414

GOATS

California	3
Maine	16
Pennsylvania	<u>4</u>
Total	23

SHEEP

Illinois	3
Maine	6
Missouri	1
Ohio	2
Pennsylvania	<u>2</u>
Total	14

SWINE

Connecticut	15
Maine	19
Missouri	40
New Hampshire	1
New York	1
Rhode Island	<u>179</u>
Total	255

PERMITS TO FEED GARBAGE TO SWINE

VESICULAR EXANTHEMA PROGRAM

Chapter 655 - Acts of 1953

Fiscal year 1976

During the fiscal year 1976, one hundred and thirty-eight (138) Permits were issued for Feeding Garbage to Swine.

LICENSE TO DEAL IN PORCINE ANIMALS

In accordance with General Laws, Chapter 129, Secs. 39, 40, 43, as amended by Chapter 312, Acts of 1971, twenty-three (23) Swine Dealer Licenses and thirty-two (32) plates were issued.

LICENSING OF PET SHOPS

In accordance with Chapter 129, Section 39A of the General Laws, Chapter 993, Acts of 1971, two hundred and seventy-one (271) Licenses were issued for the Operation of Pet Shops.

CERTIFICATES OF EQUINE EXAMINATION

July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

During the fiscal year 1976, we issued two hundred and seventy (270) Certificates of Equine Examination for four hundred and four (404) horses leaving the State of Mass. for Shows, Fairs, Races, and Sales.

We received six hundred and sixty-four (664) Certificates of Equine Examination for one thousand two hundred and forty-three (1,243) horses that came into the State for Exhibition, Racing, Breeding and for purchase by Mass. horse men. These horses came from thirty-seven (37) States, Australia, Canada, England, Guatemala, Germany, W. Germany.

EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS

There were no cases reported.

MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

FOWL POX	2 flocks were placed under quarantine
LARYNGOTRACHEITIS	4 flocks were placed under quarantine
PULLORUM	4 flocks were placed under quarantine

EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

(Report of Coggins Test)

July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>POSITIVE</u>
Barnstable	706	704	2
Berkshire	1,004	1,000	4
Bristol	1,541	1,537	4
Dukes	267	267	0
Essex	2,423	2,422	1
Franklin	840	840	0
Hampden	1,665	1,644	21
Hampshire	1,022	1,022	0
Middlesex	4,075	4,065	10
Nantucket	75	75	0
Norfolk	1,974	1,971	3
Plymouth	2,010	2,004	6
Suffolk	888	888	0
Worcester	3,483	3,465	18
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TOTALS	21,973	21,904	69
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LICENSING OF RIDING SCHOOLS AND RIDING INSTRUCTORS

Sections 2A of Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws, with Rules and Regulations promulgated for each section, require the licensing of Horseback Riding Instructors and Riding Schools/Stables.

The licensing year for each section is defined as running from April 1 through the following March 31. This causes an overlap between new applications and new and late renewals in a fiscal year.

Between July 1, 1975 and June 30, 1976, one hundred and thirty-five (135) Instructor License applications were received and processed. Six hundred and forty (640) licenses were issued, one hundred and ten (110) of which were new applicants. Since a small number of applications cannot be completed, not every application results in a license. The remaining five hundred and thirty (530) were Renewals.

Two hundred and forty-five (245) applications for a Riding School/Stable License were received and processed, of which four (4) were from non-profit, educational institutions which operate Riding Schools. Because of the above-mentioned overlap between licensing and fiscal years, there was a total of two hundred and thirteen (213) licensed stables for the 1975-76 licensing year.

QUARANTINE STATION AT LITTLETON

Total number of livestock received at the Farmers Live Animal Market Exchange in Littleton from July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976 was as follows:

Cattle	10,918
Calves	12,452
Swine	20,550
Sheep	546
Horses	601
TOTAL	<u>45,067</u>

In addition to FLAME in Littleton, the following animals were received and sold at the Livestock Auction in Easton and the Northampton Cooperative Auction Association, Inc. in Whately, Massachusetts:

<u>EASTON</u>		<u>WHATELY</u>	
Cattle	8,531	Cattle	5,333
Calves	9,213	Calves	10,990
Sheep and Goats	1,053	Sheep and Goats	1,204
		Swine	3,216
TOTAL	<u>18,797</u>	TOTAL	<u>20,743</u>

LICENSED DEALERS IN BOVINE ANIMALS

During the fiscal year 1976, there were ninety-two (92) licenses issued to dealers in dairy and beef cattle, and one hundred and twenty-five (125) plates were sent out for use on the trucks operated by these dealers.

A total of six thousand, twenty-seven (6,027) dairy cattle and three hundred and thirty-eight (338) beef cattle were reported by licensed dealers as purchased and sold.